

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the production of a wood body ~~having high durability, dimensional stability and surface hardness~~, comprising

impregnating an untreated wood body with an aqueous solution of

A) an impregnating agent selected from the group consisting of 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one, 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one modified with a C₁₋₅-alcohol, a polyol or mixtures thereof, 1,3-dimethyl-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one, dimethylolurea, bis(methoxymethyl)urea, tetramethylolacetylenediurea, 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)imidazolidin-2-one, methylolmethylurea and mixtures thereof, and

B) a catalyst selected from the group consisting of the metal salts, ammonium salts, organic acids, inorganic acids and mixtures thereof, and

hardening the wood body impregnated with the aqueous solution while maintaining humid conditions at elevated temperature.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the impregnating agent used is A) 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one, 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one modified with a C₁₋₅-alcohol, a polyol or mixtures thereof.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the impregnating agent used is A) 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one modified with a C₁₋₅-alcohol, a polyol or a mixture thereof.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein an impregnating agent C) selected from the group consisting of a C₁₋₅-alcohol, a polyol and mixtures thereof is concomitantly used.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, n-pentanol, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, 1,2- and 1,3-propylene glycol, 1,2-, 1,3- and 1,4-butylene glycol, glycerol,

polyethylene glycols of the formula $\text{HO}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n\text{H}$, where n is from 3 to 20, or mixtures thereof are concomitantly used.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 5, wherein methanol, diethylene glycol or a mixture thereof is concomitantly used.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the impregnating agents A) and, optionally C) are used in a concentration of from 1 to 60% by weight in the aqueous solution.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein metal salts selected from the group consisting of metal halides, metal sulfates, metal nitrates, metal tetrafluoroborates, metal phosphates and mixtures thereof are used as catalyst B).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein metal salts selected from the group consisting of magnesium chloride, magnesium sulfate, zinc chloride, lithium chloride, lithium bromide, boron trifluoride, aluminum chloride, aluminum sulfate, zinc nitrate, sodium tetrafluoroborate and mixtures thereof are used as catalyst B).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ammonium salts selected from the group consisting of ammonium chloride, ammonium sulfate, ammonium oxalate, diammonium phosphate and mixtures thereof are used as catalyst B).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein organic or inorganic acids selected from the group consisting of maleic acid, formic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, oxalic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, boric acid and mixtures thereof are used as catalyst B).

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein magnesium chloride is used as catalyst B).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalyst B) is used in a concentration of from 0.1 to 10% by weight, based on the amount of the impregnating agents A) and, optionally, C).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the impregnated wood body is hardened at a relative humidity of from 50 to 100%.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the impregnated wood body is hardened at a relative humidity of from 80 to 100%.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed claim 1, wherein the impregnated wood body is hardened at a temperature of from 70 to 130°C.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the impregnated wood body is hardened over a period of from 1 to 72 hours.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein after the impregnation, the wood body is fixed so that a change in the shape of the wood body during the hardening is counteracted.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A wood body ~~having high durability, dimensional stability and surface hardness~~, obtained by [[a]] the process as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A process for the production of a wood body ~~having high durability, dimensional stability and surface hardness~~, comprising impregnating an untreated wood body with an aqueous solution of

A) an impregnating agent selected from the group consisting of 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one, 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one modified with a C₁₋₅-alcohol, a polyol or mixtures thereof, 1,3-dimethyl-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one, dimethylolurea, bis(methoxymethyl)urea, tetramethylolacetylenediurea, 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)imidazolidin-2-one, methylolmethylurea and mixtures thereof,

B) a catalyst selected from the group consisting of the metal salts, ammonium salts, organic acids, inorganic acids and mixtures thereof,

C) an impregnating agent selected from the group consisting of a C1-5-alcohol, a polyol, and mixtures thereof, and water, and

hardening the wood body impregnated with the aqueous solution while maintaining humid conditions at elevated temperature.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A wood body ~~having high durability, dimensional stability and surface hardness~~, obtained by the process as claimed in claim 20.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the impregnating agent A) is 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one modified with methanol.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the impregnating agent A) is 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one modified with diethylene glycol.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the impregnating agent A) is 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-4,5-dihydroxyimidazolidin-2-one modified with a mixture of methanol and diethylene glycol.

Claim 25 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein the impregnated wood body is hardened at a relative humidity of from 50 to 100% at a temperature of from 70 to 130°C.

Claim 26 (New): The process according to claim 1, wherein the impregnated wood body is hardened at a relative humidity of from 80 to 100% at a temperature of from 80 to 100°C.